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IN THE MATTER OF JAPANESE WAR CRIMES AND
IN THE MATTER OF ILL-TREATMENT OF BRITISH
PRISONERS OF WAR ON BOARD THE "TANJONG MARU"

A F F I D A V I T.

I, Colonel CHARLES HERBERT STRINGER, Royal Army Medical Corps, at present stationed at Headquarters, Southern Command, SALISBURY, MAKE OATH and say as follows:-

1. At the time of the capitulation of the British Forces to the Japanese in SINGAPORE in February 1942 I was Deputy Director of Medical Supplies, Malayan Command.

I remained in CHANGI British Prisoner of War Camp until 16 August 1942.

2. On 16.8.42 a large party of all the senior officers, from colonel upwards, Governors and Chief Justices, were moved from Changi to Singapore docks and packed into the hold of a ship. This was a trial packing and even on Japanese standards we could not get in. Having spent the night in this misery the next day we were moved to another ship and again packed into one hold. There did not seem to be much difference but there we stayed. This ship, the "Tanjong Maru", was a coal ship and the coal debris had not been removed. The centre of the hold was piled with our kits and round the sides were 2 tiers of rough benching. We were packed on this benching where there was just room for bodies lying side by side but no room for bedding. There was a double row of prisoners on the benching lying with feet inwards and in the armpits of the opposite prisoners. We were packed as slaves were packed in the horrors of the "Middle Passage". Even then there was not room for everyone and the remainder had to lie on the kits in the centre of the hold. There was no washing water and no drinking water though plain green tea was provided at infrequent intervals. The latrines provided were rough wooden shelters on a very narrow deck gangway. They were of the trough type and were rarely hosed down.

Before leaving Changi we were ordered by the Japanese not to bring any medical stores and assumed that everything would be provided on board ship. In spite of this order all medical officers brought some medical supplies and it was well we did so as not a single drug or dressing was provided on the ship during the voyage nor was any hospital accommodation provided even under the most urgent pleading.

We spent 14 days in this Hell Ship in a tropical climate. The space provided for all purposes for each two individuals was 10 ft x 2½ ft. Head space was four feet to the iron plates of the deck above. The sun beat on this iron during the day, made it too hot to touch and turned the space below into an oven. Prickly heat rapidly developed and as rapidly turned into boils and tropical pemphigous. There were 399 officers and men in this hold, and the deck space was little more than 2 narrow gangways. 100 men were allowed on deck at a time for fresh air but as our sick increased this change over number was more and more

reduced as it became a matter of life and death for patients to get out of the foul atmosphere of the hold. As the diarrhoea and dysentery cases increased in numbers and severity the deck conditions became foul. These unfortunate people could not control themselves owing to the urgency and frequency of their need and the congestion in the few latrines available. The decks were bespattered with human dejecta and the worst cases could not get up and down the narrow and steep wooden gangway to the hold. They lay day and night on the deck or hatch cover just outside the latrines. For the worst cases we tried to rig up improvised head cover but the Japanese objected to this.

No cases died on board ship. We landed at Takau on 31.8.42. and within a week or ten days the following were dead:- Attorney Gen. Howell, Lt. Col. Kennedy, I.M.S., Capt. Walker, Lts. Kemlo, Dowling and Griffin, R.E. All died from dysentery which they developed on the sea journey from Singapore and for which they got no medicine nor care from Japanese sources during the voyage. On landing Mr. Howell and Lt. Col. Kennedy were admitted to a Japanese hospital practically moribund. They were put in a ward by themselves and given neither medicine nor nursing. They were literally left to die, which they did in a day or two.

SWORN by the aforesaid CHARLES HERBERT)	
STRINGER at 6 Spring Gardens in the)	(signed) C.H. STRINGER
City of WESTMINSTER this 25th day of)	Colonel.
February, 1946.)	

BEFORE ME

(signed) A.M. BELL-MACDONALD
Major Legal Staff
Office of the Judge Advocate General,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Certified true copy.

(Signed) T. MORNANE.
Lt. Col.